

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1.

Please add new claim 43.

Please amend claims 2 – 6, 14 – 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 29, 32, 35, and 38.

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 43, wherein said at least a first SMS device in said first wireless ~~communication~~ network comprises one of a plurality of SMS devices in said first wireless network; said at least a second SMS device in said second wireless ~~communication~~ network comprises one of a plurality of SMS devices in said second ~~communication~~ wireless network; and said second wireless ~~communication~~ network comprises one of a plurality of wireless ~~communications~~ networks.
3. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 43, wherein said first and said second SMS devices each comprise a cellular telephone connected to a computer.
4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[3]] 43, wherein said ~~hardware~~ first SMS device is further programmed to assist said server in determining which other ~~hardware~~ SMS device to forward ~~the~~ said SMS messages to [[,]] when such messages are received ~~and forwarded by the system via wireless communication~~ from said first wireless network.

5. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 43 wherein said server is a computer.
6. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 43 further comprising a plurality of user ~~SMS message devices, said SMS message user devices being~~ computers that are programmed to communicate with said server across the internet ~~and said server is further programmed to communicate with said SMS message user devices across the Internet,~~ said user computers having means for sending and receiving SMS messages.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 6, wherein said server is further programmed to forward SMS messages for authorized users of the system to the user's email account.
9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 6, wherein said server is further programmed to store SMS messages and allow authorized users of the system to send and retrieve SMS messages via an HTML based interface on the Internet.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 6, ~~further comprising a plurality of user computers, said user computers having the capability for sending SMS messages and being in communication with said server across the Internet,~~

~~said computer program on~~ said server further comprising one or more executable code sections that allow said server to receive an SMS message from one of said user computers, determine routing information from said database to direct said SMS message to the intended recipient of said SMS message, and forward said SMS message to a ~~hardware~~ SMS device in the wireless communication network where said intended recipient is located for further forwarding to said intended recipient.

15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, further comprising e-mail accounts whereby SMS messages can be sent or received as e-mail, and one or more of said executable code sections in said computer program on said server causes said server to receive SMS messages sent from an e-mail account or to forward SMS messages to an email account, as directed by instructions comprising said personalized information maintained in said database.
16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein one or more of said executable code sections in said computer program on said server causes said server to store SMS messages whereby authorized users can send and retrieve SMS messages using an HTML based interface on the Internet.
17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14 further comprising a plurality of servers connected to the Internet, each said server having a machine readable storage and having stored thereon a computer program comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine to cause said servers to exchange information concerning SMS messages and user accounts across the Internet.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for sending and receiving SMS messages, comprising:

a plurality of ~~SMS-message~~ user computers ~~devices~~ that can send and receive SMS messages,

a plurality of ~~hardware~~ SMS devices;

each said ~~hardware~~ SMS device comprising a cellular telephone connected to a computer, each said ~~hardware~~ SMS device being connected to the ~~Internet~~ internet;

said plurality of ~~hardware~~ SMS devices being located in a plurality of wireless ~~communication~~ networks, ~~such that~~ each of said ~~plurality of~~ wireless ~~communications~~ networks ~~contains a plurality of hardware~~ containing one or more SMS devices;

each of said ~~plurality of hardware~~ SMS devices being programmed to receive and forward SMS messages using the ~~Internet~~ internet and using one of said ~~plurality of wireless communication~~ networks;

a plurality of servers connected to the ~~Internet~~ internet, said servers comprising computers:

each said server having a machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for receiving SMS messages from said ~~hardware~~ SMS devices via the ~~Internet~~ internet and verifying that SMS messages are authorized, each said server maintaining one or more tables comprising a database containing at least a list of users of said system and routing information for routing SMS messages to predetermined recipients, said routing information being based upon user-supplied information provided by an authorized user, said user-supplied information comprising at least a user generated recipient identification code,

said plurality of executable code sections causing each said server to access said database and forward SMS messages received by each said server to the appropriate ~~hardware~~ SMS devices via the ~~Internet~~ internet and maintain account information for debiting users of the system;

said plurality of executable code sections causing said servers to communicate with said ~~SMS message~~ user computers devices via the ~~Internet~~ internet;

said plurality of executable code sections causing said servers to allow authorized users of the system to send SMS messages from one of said ~~SMS message~~ user computers devices to one of said servers, and to determine whether one or more of said SMS messages is to be forwarded to a ~~hardware~~ SMS device via the internet;

said plurality of executable code sections causing said servers to forward SMS messages intended for one of said users of the system to said user's email account; said plurality of executable code sections causing said servers to store SMS messages and allow users of the system to send and retrieve SMS messages via an HTML based interface on the ~~Internet~~ internet;

~~said plurality of SMS message user devices comprising computers that communicate with said servers via the Internet;~~

said plurality of executable code sections causing said servers to monitor the delivery of SMS messages ~~such that,~~ and debit a user's account when an intended recipient receives an SMS message via a wireless communication network, by email, or by retrieving it from a server via an HTML based interface, ~~the server will debit a user's account.~~

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, wherein at least one of said plurality of ~~hardware~~ SMS devices is programmed to assist a server in determining to which ~~hardware~~ SMS device ~~in said plurality of hardware devices~~ an SMS message should be forwarded when said SMS message is received and forwarded by said server to a recipient via a wireless communication network.
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19 wherein said servers are programmed to exchange information concerning SMS messages and user accounts via the Internet.
23. (Currently amended) A method for receiving an SMS message from a sender in a first wireless ~~communication~~ network and forwarding said SMS message to a recipient in a second wireless ~~communication~~ network without traversing a network bridge comprising the steps of:
- (a) a first ~~hardware~~ SMS device receiving an SMS message from said first wireless ~~communication~~ network, said SMS message including information identifying the SMS message user device from which said SMS message was sent and further including a predetermined user-supplied recipient identification code from which the intended recipient of said SMS message may be identified, said first ~~hardware~~ SMS device being located in said first wireless communications network, said first ~~hardware~~ SMS device having an IP address and being

connected to the Internet, said first ~~hardware~~ SMS device receiving said SMS message from said first wireless ~~communications~~ network via said first wireless communications network's SMSC, converting said SMS message to internet protocol (IP) and forwarding said SMS message via the ~~Internet~~ internet:

(b) said SMS message being received by a server connected to the ~~Internet~~ internet, said server maintaining a database for recording and retrieving information relating to authorized users, said information comprising at least an authorized identification code cross-referenced to said user's SMS user device and including predetermined routing information to one or more wireless recipients comprising at least a recipient identification code and a wireless ~~communications~~ network for each of said one or more wireless recipients;

(c) said server accessing said database to determine whether said SMS message is an authorized SMS message;

(d) and if said SMS message is authorized, said server further accessing said database to obtain predetermined routing information to deliver said SMS message to said SMS message recipient in said second wireless ~~communications~~ network via said wireless ~~communication~~ network's SMSC, said predetermined routing information including at least an IP address of said second hardware device on said second wireless ~~communication~~ network;

- (e) forwarding said SMS message to a second ~~hardware~~ SMS device attached to the internet and located in said second wireless ~~communication~~ network; and
 - (f) said second ~~hardware~~ SMS device forwarding said SMS message to said recipient via said second wireless ~~communication~~ network's SMSC.
24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising debiting a user's account after the message is successfully forwarded.
25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising notifying the sender of said SMS message after said message is successfully forwarded.
26. (Currently amended) A method for receiving an SMS message from a sender in a first wireless ~~communication~~ network and forwarding said SMS message to an SMS message recipient in a second wireless ~~communication~~ network without traversing a network bridge comprising the steps of:
- a. receiving an SMS message on a ~~hardware~~ SMS device located in said first wireless communication network via said first network's SMSC, said hardware device being connected to the ~~Internet~~ internet and programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via wireless communications and the ~~Internet~~ internet;

- b. forwarding said SMS message to a server via the ~~Internet~~ internet, said server being programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via the ~~Internet~~ internet;
- c. accessing information including a user-supplied recipient identification code stored on said server to determine whether said SMS message is an SMS message from an authorized user;
- d. analyzing said recipient identification code to determine said SMS message recipient;
- e. determining that said SMS message recipient is authorized to receive said SMS message via an email account; and
- f. forwarding said SMS message from said server to said recipient's email address.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising debiting a user's account after said message is successfully forwarded.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising notifying said sender after the message is successfully forwarded.

29. (Currently amended) A method for receiving an SMS message from a sender in a first wireless ~~communication~~ network and forwarding said SMS message to a

recipient in a second wireless ~~communication~~ network without said SMS message passing through a network bridge comprising the steps of:

- a. receiving an SMS message via email on a server that is programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via the ~~Internet~~ internet;
- b. determining if said message is an SMS message from an authorized user;
- c. accessing information stored on said server to determine said SMS message recipient, said information including at least a recipient identification code and said recipient's wireless ~~communication~~ network;
- d. forwarding said SMS message via the internet from said server to a hardware device located in said recipient's wireless ~~communication~~ network, said hardware device being connected to the ~~Internet~~ internet and programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via wireless communications and the ~~Internet~~ internet; and
- e. forwarding said SMS message to said desired recipient via a wireless communication network's SMSC from said ~~hardware~~ SMS device in said desired recipient's network.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising debiting a user's account after the message is successfully forwarded.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising notifying said sender after said message is successfully forwarded.

32. (Currently amended) A method for receiving an SMS message from a sender in a first wireless communication network and forwarding said SMS message to a recipient in a second wireless communication network without said SMS message passing through a network bridge comprising the steps of:

- a. receiving an SMS message on a ~~hardware~~ SMS device located in said first wireless network, said ~~hardware~~ SMS device being connected to the ~~Internet~~ internet and programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via a wireless communications network and the Internet;
- b. forwarding said SMS message to a server via the ~~Internet~~ internet, said server being programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via the ~~Internet~~ internet;
- c. determining if said SMS message is an SMS message from an authorized user;
- d. accessing information stored on said server to determine the SMS message recipient, said stored information including at least a user-supplied recipient identification code;
- e. determining that said recipient is authorized to retrieve said SMS message from said server via an HTML based interface; and

- f. storing said SMS message until said recipient retrieves it.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising debiting a user's account after said message is successfully forwarded.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising notifying said sender after said message is successfully forwarded.

35. (Currently amended) A method for receiving an SMS message from a sender in one wireless ~~communication~~ network and forwarding said SMS message to a recipient in another wireless ~~communication~~ network without said SMS message passing through a network bridge comprising the steps of:

- a. receiving an SMS message, via an HTML based interface on a server that is programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via the ~~Internet~~ internet;
- b. determining if said message is an SMS message from an authorized user;
- c. accessing user-supplied information maintained on said server including a recipient identification code to determine the SMS message recipient and said recipient's wireless communication network;
- d. forwarding said SMS message via the internet from said server to a ~~hardware~~ SMS device located in said recipient's wireless communication network, said ~~hardware~~ SMS device being connected to the ~~Internet~~

internet and programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via wireless communications networks and the ~~Internet~~ internet; and

- e. forwarding said SMS message to said desired recipient via a wireless communication network's SMSC from said ~~hardware~~ SMS device in said desired recipient's network.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising debiting a user's account after said message is successfully forwarded.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising notifying the sender after said message is successfully forwarded.

38. (Currently amended) A system for sending and receiving SMS messages, said system comprising:

A first and a second computer, each said computer being connected to the internet and having a machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for receiving SMS messages from the Internet and sending said SMS messages to an output port connected to said computer, and for receiving SMS messages from an input port connected to said computer and sending SMS messages to the ~~Internet~~ internet;

~~a second computer, said second computer being connected to the internet and having a machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for receiving SMS messages from the Internet and sending said SMS messages to an output port connected to said second computer, and for receiving SMS messages from an input port connected to said second computer and sending SMS messages to the Internet;~~

at least one server that is connected to the ~~Internet~~ internet;

said server having a machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for maintaining a plurality of interrelated tables comprising a database, said database containing user-provided information cross-referencing SMS users and predetermined routing and identification information for routing SMS messages to selected, identified SMS message recipients,

said server receiving an SMS message from said first computer via the internet, analyzing said SMS message and accessing said database to verify that said SMS message originated from an authorized user and to determine the intended recipient of said SMS message,

said server obtaining routing information from said database for directing said SMS message to said intended recipient, said routing information including determining the IP address of said second computer to which said SMS message will be forwarded, forwarding said SMS message to said second computer, and maintaining account information for debiting said user;

said second computer receiving said SMS message from said server and forwarding said SMS message to said output port connected to said second computer and sending a confirmation message to said server; and,

said server then debiting said user's account.

39. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 38, further comprising a keyboard being attached to said input port of said first computer.
40. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 38, further comprising a cellular telephone being connected to said input port of said first computer.
41. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 38, further comprising a visual display being connected to said output port of said second computer.
42. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 38, further comprising a cellular telephone being connected to said output port of said second computer.

43. (New) A system for sending and receiving SMS messages between SMS message devices located in different wireless networks without traversing a network bridge in either wireless network, said system comprising:

a plurality of SMS devices, each said SMS device being connectable to the internet and connectable to a wireless network and having a machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine whereby SMS messages arriving at said SMS device from a wireless network may be sent to the internet, and SMS messages arriving at said SMS device from the internet may be sent to said wireless network without said SMS messages being passed through a network bridge attached to said wireless network;

a first wireless network having at least a first SMS device and a first network bridge, said first network bridge comprising a short message service center (SMSC) and means for connecting said SMSC to external networks, said first SMS device being connected to the internet and connected to said first wireless network such that SMS messages arriving at said first SMS device from said first wireless network may be sent to the internet, and SMS messages arriving at said first SMS device from the internet may be sent to said first wireless network without said SMS messages being passed through said first network bridge;

a second wireless network having at least a second SMS device and a second network bridge, said second network bridge comprising a short message service center (SMSC) and means for connecting said SMSC to external networks, said second SMS device being connected to the internet and to said second wireless network, such that SMS messages arriving at said second SMS device from said second wireless network may be sent to the internet, and SMS messages arriving at said second SMS device from the internet may be sent to said second wireless network without said SMS messages being passed through said second network bridge;

at least one server that is connected to the Internet, said server having a machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for maintaining a plurality of interrelated tables comprising a database, said database containing user-provided information cross-referencing SMS user devices, and predetermined routing and identification information for verifying SMS message authorization, and for routing SMS messages to selected, identified SMS message recipients;

whereby an SMS message sent from a sending user device in said first wireless network and directed to a recipient user device in said second wireless network may be routed through said first SMS device to said server via the internet, may be analyzed for further routing information by said server, and may be further

routed to said recipient's SMS device via the internet and said second SMS device, and said server may debit an identified user's account.